

# Reagan Aide Tells of New Strategy on Soviet Threat

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WASHINGTON, May 21 — President Reagan has approved a new military strategy in which United States forces need not engage those of the Soviet Union on all fronts simultaneously if a war breaks out, his national security adviser said today.

The adviser, William P. Clark, outlined a significant refinement in the military strategy thus far formulated under the supervision of Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger.

The national security adviser drew from an eight-page National Security Decision Memorandum approved this week by Mr. Reagan. He said that the ultimate objective of the Administration was to "convince the leadership of the Soviet Union to turn their attention inward," suggesting that would avert Soviet threats to American interests.

Mr. Clark's speech was his first since moving from the State Department to the White House staff in January. He noted that the President's strategy was the product of a three-month high-level study from all departments concerned with national security, said, "Any conflict with the Soviet Union could expand to global dimensions."

But, in the key refinement of earlier declarations of strategy, he said: "This does not mean that we must have the capability to successfully engage Soviet forces simultaneously on all fronts. We can't."

"What it does mean," Mr. Clark said at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, "is that we must procure balanced forces and establish priorities for sequential operations to insure that military power would be applied in the most effective ways."

Although cast in general terms, the strategy enunciated by Mr. Clark drew together themes that he said included, "diplomatic, political, economic, and informational components built on a foundation of military strength."

In addition to giving the various bureaucracies their first set of coordinated marching orders, the strategy made official a theme that several Administration officials have hinted at before, that of exploiting Soviet economic weakness. "We must force our principal adversary, the Soviet Union, to bear the brunt of its economic shortcomings," Mr. Clark said. He gave no details.

In New York, Mr. Weinberger said that the Administration was moving to stop the sale to the Soviet of technology that could be used against the United States, calling such sales "shortsightedness raised to the level of a crime."

## Previous Basic Strategy

Until now, the Administration's basic military strategy, as formulated under the guidance Mr. Weinberger, called for the nation's armed forces to prepare for a conventional war with the Soviet Union that would be protracted and global in scope.

Mr. Clark, who was Deputy Secretary of State until he replaced Richard E. Allen as the national security adviser, said that in February, the President ordered a review of national security strategy, which he said had been "a collection of departmental policies" developed during the first year of the Administration.

The President, Mr. Clark said, "wanted to see where we were, to make sure our various policies were consistent, and to set the course for the future."

Mr. Reagan was particularly anxious to make sure that discussions with Congress on cuts in military spending and negotiations with the Soviet Union on reduction in nuclear arms were based on "a well-thought-through, integrated strategy for preserving our national security."

When the Reagan Administration took office, senior officials said that the threat from the Soviet Union, the Administration's strategy for meeting that threat and the needs of the armed forces would determine United States military spending. They criticized the Carter Administration for basing military budgets on economic considerations rather than military need.

The Reagan Administration's approach, however, began to crumble last summer, when prospects for soaring Federal deficits led the Administration to cut projected military spending for the next three years.

Its approach was further eroded this month when President Reagan agreed with the Senate Budget Committee to reductions in military spending that Pentagon officials said would bring projected budgets down close to the bare minimum the Administration thought necessary to rebuild the military services.

## Limiting a Conflict's Scope

Mr. Clark's speech appeared to confirm that shift. He said: "It is in the interest of the United States to limit the scope of any conflict. The capability for counteroffensives on other fronts is an essential element of our strategy but it is not a substitute for adequate military capability to defend our vital interests in the area in which they are threatened."

In contrast, Secretary Weinberger's first annual report to Congress in February said, "Even if the enemy attacked at only one point, we might choose not to restrict ourselves to meeting aggression on its own immediate front."

The Weinberger report said: "We might decide to stretch our capabilities, to engage the enemy in many places, or to concentrate our forces and military assets in a few of the most critical areas." Within the Pentagon, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Fred C. Ikle, and the Secretary of the Navy, John Lehman, have been the foremost advocates of preparing for global conflict.

Mr. Clark added another element to the new strategy, that the United States expected allies or other friendly nations to carry the brunt of defense against attacks from enemies other than the Soviet Union. That seemed to revive the Nixon Doctrine of a decade ago, in which other nations were to be responsible for their immediate defense while American forces were held in reserve.

In drawing up the new strategy, Mr. Clark said, the National Security Council Staff led the effort, with Mr. Weinberger's policy report providing the foundation for the military portion of the study. Senior officials from the Defense Department, State Department, Central Intelligence Agency and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were among those involved.